

REMARKS

Applicant presents herewith amended claims, wherein claim 1 has been amended to include the features of original claims 2, 3, 6 and 7. Claim 9 has been amended to recite the feature of original claim 10. Claims 17 and 18 have been deleted from consideration.

Claim 1 as amended additionally recites:

“the first and second members engage together by way of two opposed retaining means; each retaining means includes a flange and a mating aperture and at least one of the flanges is moveable between an engaged and disengaged position; the operating means includes a rotary lock barrel which is arranged to rotate a cam; wherein rotation of the cam uses lateral movement of a locking bar upon which one of the flanges is disposed”.

Appropriate basis for reciting this embodiment is found in the specification, as the locking arrangement now as claimed provides two flanges (30, 32), one of which can be extended or retracted by way of rotating lock barrel 34. In order to change an advertisement being displayed in the table, lock barrel is rotated to retract the flange 32 out of engagement with recess 20 provided in the tabletop. One edge of the tabletop can then be lifted as the tabletop can partially rotate about flange 30 to a degree sufficient to allow an operator reach in and remove the printed advertisement and replace it with a new advertisement. This hinging action allows for changing of advertisements in a manner similar to that as set forth by Hancock, U.S. Patent No. 6,739,271, but without the use of a hinge. Further, the entire tabletop can be easily removed if desired for more extensive servicing of the tabletop.

Pokorny, U.S. Patent No. 4,150,630 as cited in the Action does mention use of a flange at column 3, lines 48-51 as asserted in the Action. This appears to disclose part of a section of angle iron to which a pivot point is drilled and does not operate in a similar manner to the present invention. Specific reference is made to the arrangement depicted in Figure 3 showing use of latch wheels 82. These move in a rotatory fashion, and not laterally as defined in new claim 1 submitted herewith. In fact, if latch wheels of this type were used at either end of an advertising type tabletop similar to the one the subject of the present application, then it would be necessary to release both latch wheels in order to access the advertisement in the table. Use of latch wheels would not provide the advantages of the present invention and we submit that, even if the teaching of the documents were combined, this skilled person would not arrive at the invention as now claimed.

Claim 9, now additionally defines:

“wherein the object is a product and the sheet bears information relating to that product”.

The arrangement defined in amended claim 9 recites a removable sheet of material through which a product can be viewed and the sheet bears information relating to the product which in one embodiment is advertising type information. The device described in Kara, U.S. Patent No. 5,603,410 does not include a removable sheet. Rather, the apertures are provided in a mat 108 which is sandwiched between glass panels 30 and 110. Thus, Kara does not teach use of a removable sheet of material nor does it teach providing information on the sheet that relates to the product which is viewable through the aperture. It is submitted in this regard that Kara teaches away from providing a removable sheet and teaches away from providing information on

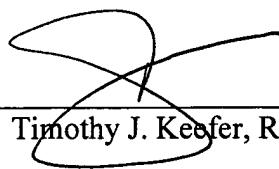
that sheet. Applicant therefore submits that claim 9 as amended is neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of record.

For all of these reasons it is submitted that the subject matter of the claims is patentable over the prior art of record. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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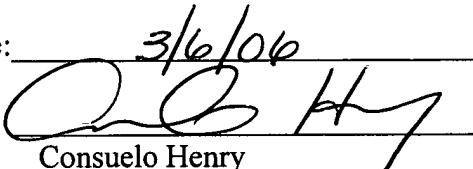


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